

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 /023 W

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P 060848Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5541

FAA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

FAA, CHIEF CIVIL AEROMEDICAL INSTITUTE OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2463

BRUSSELS, BEIRUT AND LAGOS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 (DECLAS DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE)

TAGS: EAIR, LI

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT, CESSNA 401A CRASH

CAUSING DEATH OF STEPHEN A. TOLBERT

REF: MONROVIA 2316, 2348, 2368, AND 2418, STATE 100819, 101398

AND 101839

1. THIS IS A PRELIMINARY, FACTUAL ACCIDENT REPORT. DO NOT DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS.

2. PROTOCOL AND AUTHORITY GROUP: WHEATLEY AND MARTINEX OF FAA, NY-AIFO AND W.E. BELL AND RODNEY E. SCHAEFFER OF CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO. HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS ACCREDITED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATORS BY GOL. ALL INFO CONCERNING THIS ACCIDENT IS TO BE CLASSIFIED AT REQUEST OF GOL.

3. STRUCTURES GROUP: THE FUSELAGE, TAIL SECTION, LEFT ENGINE WERE RECOVERED. RIGHT WING OUTBOARD OF NACELLE AND RIGHT ENGINE NOT YET RECOVERED. DEPTH OF WATER AT CRASH SITE 30 FEET.

4. HUMAN FACTORS GROUP: SIX PEOPLE ON BOARD, FOUR BODIES  
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RECOVERED. TOXICOLOGICAL SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM

REMAINS OF PILOT AND ONE PASSENGER THANKS TO SPECIFIC  
DIRECTIVE FROM ASSISTANT MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION  
CAMPBELL. TOX. SPECIMENS FOR ANALYSIS BY FAA CAMI WILL BE  
HAND CARRIED BY WHEATLEY. FAA CAMI TOX BOX HAS BEEN MOST  
HELPFUL. DOCTOR NEHEMIAH COOPER, CHIEF OF JOHN F. KENNEDY  
NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (AND PERSONAL PHYSICIAN TO PRESIDENT  
TOLBERT) IS ALSO AN FAA APPROVED MEDICAL EXAMINER. HE IS  
HANDLING AUTOPSY SPECIMENS NEEDED BY FAA CAMI FOR AREOMEDICAL  
ANALYSIS.

5. FLIGHT OPERATIONS GROUP: COCKPIT CONTROLS FOUND IN  
FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- A. RIGHT ENGINE MIXTURE CONTROL IN OFF POSITION,
- B. RIGHT ENGINE PROPELLER CONTROL IN FEATHER POSITION,
- C. RIGHT ENGINE FUEL VALVE CONTROL IN OFF POSITION, AND
- D. RIGHT ENGINE MAGNETO SWITCHES IN OFF POSITION.

6. POWER PLANT GROUP: RIGHT ENGINE EXHAUSE STACK  
FOUND COMPLETELY SEVERED FROM OUTLET OF TURBO COMPRESSOR.  
THIS ITEM NEEDS FAA LABORATORY ANALYSIS TO FIND STRESS AND  
STRAIN FACTORS TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF FRACTURE.

7. WRECKAGE RECOVERY GROUP: ASSISTANT MINISTER OF  
TRANSPORTATION HAS HAD GLASS BOTTOMED VIEW BOXES MADE FOR  
WRECKAGE RECOVERY GROUP TO TRY TO LOCATE RIGHT WING AND RIGHT  
ENGINE. WRECKAGE AREA WILL BE RECONNED BY BOATS USING GLASS  
BOTTOMED VIEWERS TO FIND THESE. US MARINE SECURITY GUARD  
(L/CPL C. DOUGLAS BEATTY), WHO IS SKILLED IN SCUBA DIVING,  
HAS VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST IN RECOVERY OF ADDITIONAL WRECKAGE.  
THIS MARINE MERITS YOUR CONSIDERATION FOR SPECIAL COMMENDATION  
DUE VOLUNTARY NATURE HIS OFFER ASSIST. COMPLETE COOPERATION  
AND ASSISTANCE IS BEING GIVEN BY ALL CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES  
IN LIBERIA THROUGH DCA MR. LARDNER.

8. DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE GROUP: ASSISTANCE OF AMERICAN  
EMBASSY MONROVIA TO FAA IS EXCELLENT AND MERITS YOUR MOST  
SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. WHEATLEY SENDS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750578/aaaacsy.tel  
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**Subject:** PRELIMINARY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT, CESSNA 401A CRASH CAUSING DEATH OF STEPHEN A. TOLBERT  
**TAGS:** EAIR, LI, FAA, (TOLBERT, STEPHEN A)  
**To:** BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006